

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W  
----- 056241

O P 091512Z APR 75 ZFF4

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8242

INFO SECDEF PRIORITY

US MISSION NATO PRIORITY 2092

JCS PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

USDELMC PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

CINCUSAREUR PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY

CINCUSAFE PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 ATHENS 2739

EXDIS

MILITARY ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, GR, US

SUBJECT: GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS: SECOND MEETING OF  
SUBGROUP ON SOFA QUESTIONS

REF: ATHENS 2717

USNATO ALSO FOR DEPASSTSECDEF BERGOLD

1. SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATUS OF FORCES QUESTIONS MET MORNING  
OF APRIL 9 FOR TWO HOURS. GREEK SIDE INCLUDED  
MACHERITSAS OF LEGAL SECTION AS WELL AS ECONOMIDES AND  
CONSTAS. US SIDE OPENED BY REITERATING THAT DISCUSSIONS  
EXPLORATORY, TO DEFINE POINTS OF AGREEMENT AND  
DISAGREEMENT. US SIDE NOTED THAT WHAT SUBGROUP ABLE  
TO AGREE ON CONCERNING SOFA QUESTIONS WOULD BE AFFECTED  
TO A DEGREE BY PROGRESS OR LACK THEREOF MADE ON OTHER

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SUBJECTS UNDER DISCUSSION IN PLENARY; NOTED ITS

SATISFACTION WITH EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS BUT EXPRESSED READINESS TO STUDY WITH GREEK SIDE SPECIFIC PROBLEMS WITH VIEW TO MODIFYING ARRANGEMENTS TO MEET GREEK REQUIREMENTS. US SIDE REFLECTED ITS SURPRISE AT INTRODUCTION BY GREEKS PREVIOUS DAY OF STATUS OF OTHER US PERSONNEL OFFICIALLY IN GREECE IN ADDITION TO STATUS OF US FORCES. CONSTAS COMMENTED THAT STATUS OF OTHER US PERSONNEL NOT UNRELATED TO US FORCES SINCE AGREEMENTS OF 1947-49 INTENDED IN PART FOR PURPOSE OF FACILITATING SUPPLY OF MILITARY AID TO GREECE. HE ALSO COMMENTED THAT VOA COULD BE USED IN TIME OF CONFLICT FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE, IMPLYING A MILITARY CHARACTER TO THESE FACILITIES.

2. US SIDE ACKNOWLEDGED SIMPLE LOGIC AND SUPERFICIAL ATTRACTIVENESS OF GREEK PROPOSAL TO ABOLISH 1956 SOFA BILATERAL AND CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF 1953 MILITARY FACILITIES AGREEMENT (MFA). US SIDE REVIEWED ORIGINS OF 1951 NATO SOFA, POINTING OUT THAT IT WAS LOWEST COMMON DENOMINATOR AND THAT ALL 12 PARTICIPANTS WERE WILLING IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER TO PROVIDE MORE FAVORABLE STATUS FOR VISITING FORCE. NATO SOFA NEITHER DESIGNED NOR INTENDED TO OPERATE IN A VACUUM, AND PARTIES TO SOFA INTENDED FOR IT TO BE IMPLEMENTED AND SUPPLEMENTED BY AGREEMENTS BETWEEN SENDING AND RECEIVING STATES. US SIDE CITED NATO SOFA PREAMBLE, ARTICLE IX, PARA 3 AND PARA 7, AND ARTICLE XI, PARA 4, ALL INDICATING THAT ADDITIONAL AGREEMENTS CONTEMPLATED. US SIDE REFERRED TO EXISTENCE OF COMMISSARIES, EXCHANGES AND APO WHEREEVER US FORCES PRESENT, NONE OF WHICH SPECIFICALLY PROVIDED FOR IN NATO SOFA, BUT WHICH EMBODIED IN BILATERAL AGREEMENTS. NATO SOFA WAS BASIC EDIFICE UPON WHICH ADDITIONAL STRUCTURES TO BE BUILT. US SIDE EXHIBITED SOFA WITH FRG AND CITED NETHERLANDS SOFA AS INDICATIONS RESPECTIVELY OF VERY EXTENSIVE AND RATHER BRIEF BILATERALS, IMPLEMENTING AND EXPANDING ON NATO SOFA OF THE KIND WE HAVE WITH OTHER NATO ALLIES. US SIDE NOTED 1953 MFA (APPENDIX I) AND 1956 BILATERAL SOFA WERE VEHICLES WHEREBY NATO SOFA WAS EXPANDED AND IMPLEMENTED IN GREECE. ACKNOWLEDGING

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THAT STATUS OF US FORCES IN GREECE SHOULD BE PREMISED UPON NATO SOFA AND THAT ANY BILATERAL HAD TO RESPECT SOVEREIGNTY OF GREECE AND US, US SIDE EXPRESSED DESIRE TO BE FORTHCOMING IN SOLVING ANY SPECIFIC PROBLEMS GREECE HAD.

3. US SIDE REFERRED TO CONCERN EXPRESSED PREVIOUS DAY BY GREEKS RELATING TO WAIVER PROVISION IN 1956 BI-

LATERAL, SURMISED THAT OTHER AREAS MIGHT BE  
TROUBLESOME TO GREEKS, AND EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO  
DISCUSS ANY SOFA PROVISION WHICH MIGHT BE OF CONCERN.  
REGARDING WAIVER, US SIDE POINTED OUT THAT 1956  
BILATERAL STATED BASIC FACT, THAT VISITING FORCE  
ULTIMATELY RESPONSIBLE FOR GOOD ORDER AND DISCIPLINE  
OF MEMBERS OF THAT FORCE. NETHERLANDS FORMULA EMBODIED  
IN 1956 BILATERAL WAS THUS RECOGNITION OF THIS  
RESPONSIBILITY, WHICH WAS REFLECTED IN SIMILAR  
PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN OTHER BILATERAL AGREEMENTS.  
US SIDE PROVIDED TEXT OF ALTERNATIVE, AS PROVIDED IN  
BASIC GUIDANCE PAPER AND SUPPLEMENTED BY PROVISION OF  
1956 BILATERAL CONCERNING TRIAL OBSERVERS. AFTER  
READING THIS TEXT, GREEK SIDE SOUGHT CLARIFICATION

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W  
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O P 091512Z APR 75 ZFF-4  
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
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JCS PRIORITY  
USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY  
USDELMC PRIORITY  
USCINCEUR PRIORITY  
CINCUSAREUR PRIORITY  
CINCUSNVEUR PRIORITY  
CINCUSAFE PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 ATHENS 2739

EXDIS

MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

OF IDENTITY AND ROLE OF TRIAL OBSERVER, WHICH US  
SIDE PROVIDED. GREEKS SUGGESTED THAT GOG MIGHT WITH  
INCLUSION OF PROVISION SIMILARLY ALLOWING GOG TO

SEND ITS OBSERVER TO US COURTS-MARTIAL WHEN GREECE  
WAIVED ITS JURISDICTION. US SIDE POINTED OUT THAT  
COURTS-MARTIAL BY DEFINITION CONDUCTED PUBLIC TRIALS  
TO WHICH GREEK CERTAINLY COULD COME AND NOTED THAT  
US RECENTLY HAD INVITED GOG TO SEND OBSERVER TO  
PENDING TRIAL OF SANCHEZ.

4. ECONOMIDES ACCEPTED THAT SOFA ITSELF PROVIDED  
FOR FURTHER AGREEMENTS. GREEK SIDE HAD NO OBJECTION  
TO US SIDE SETTING FORTH PROPOSALS IN GENERAL SPIRIT  
AND FRAMEWORK OF SOFA TO SUPPLEMENT THAT DOCUMENT.  
REFERRING AGAIN TO CONSTITUTIONAL PROBLEM OF DIFFERENCE  
BETWEEN BASIC MFA AND SECRET APPENDIX THERETO,  
ECONOMIDES REPEATED NEED TO "SUPPRESS SOME PROVISIONS"  
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OF LATTER DOCUMENT. HE NOTED THAT IF ON SOME POINTS  
NEW AGREEMENT HAD TO DEVIATE FROM SOFA, THIS SHOULD  
BE DONE IN CONSIDERATION OF FUNCTIONAL NEEDS OF US  
FORCES BUT WITHOUT DEVIATING TOO FAR FROM NATO SOFA.

5. ECONOMIDES THEN ADDRESSED US DRAFT TEXT ON WAIVER,  
INDICATING HIS FAVORABLE IMPRESSION OF FIRST PARA  
(WITH ADDITION OF SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO SOFA,  
ARTICLE VII, PARA 3), SECOND PARA CONCERNING NOTIFI-  
CATION OF RESULTS OF WAIVED CASES, AND OF THIRD  
PARA WITH PROBABLE ADDITION OF A PROVISION ALLOWING GREEK  
OBSERVERS AS DISCUSSED ABOVE. ECONOMIDES ALSO AGREED  
WITH STATEMENT BY US SIDE THAT AGREEMENTS INTERRELATED  
AND RESULTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES WORK WOULD BE RELATED TO THAT  
OF OTHER COMMITTEES AND PLENARY.

6. RETURNING TO HIS DESIRE TO ADDRESS AGREEMENTS  
OF 1947-49, ECONOMIDES SAID THESE NO LONGER  
INDISPENSABLE TO US OFFICIALS IN GREECE. SINCE  
NEGOTIATION WAS INTENDED TO PRODUCE ENTIRELY NEW  
AGREEMENTS, THIS WAS EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW  
OLD TEXTS WHICH HAD PROVED UNSATISFACTORY TO GREEK  
AUTHORITIES AND WHICH DID NOT CONFORM WITH PRESENT  
FUNCTIONAL NEEDS OF US TROOPS IN GREECE. AS TO  
METHOD, HE PROPOSED US REVIEW TEXTS OF 1953 AND  
1956 AGREEMENTS, SAYING WHICH PROVISIONS SHOULD  
IN US VIEW BE RETAINED OR ABOLISHED.

7. US SIDE WELCOMED ECONOMIDES REMARKS, WHICH BROUGHT  
POINTS OF VIEW CLOSER TOGETHER, AGREED THAT NATO  
SOFA WAS BASE BUT REITERATED NECESSITY THAT IT BE  
SUPPLEMENTED. US SIDE ACCEPTED IN GENERAL WORK  
METHOD PROPOSED BY GREEK SIDE, AND ADDED THAT IT  
WOULD EXAMINE PROVISIONS WHICH GREEKS FOUND

UNSATISFACTORY AS WELL AS POINTING OUT THOSE WHICH  
US FOUND STILL SATISFACTORY, NOTING THAT US SIDE  
CLEARLY REGARDED ALL PROVISIONS AS SATISFACTORY  
SINCE IN US VIEW PURPOSE OF THESE AGREEMENTS HAD  
BEEN TO FILL GAPS AND SUPPLEMENT NATO SOFA BUT  
AGREEING THAT WHERE PROVISIONS WERE OBSOLETE OR  
REDUNDANT THEY COULD BE ABOLISHED. US SIDE PREFERRED  
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TO LEAVE FOR OF AGREEMENT OPEN, AS NEW  
AGREEMENT MIGHT POSE PROBLEMS WHICH COULD BE  
OBIATED UNDER REVISION OF OLD AGREEMENT.

8. NEXT MEETING OF SUBCOMMITTEE WILL DEPEND UPON  
ACTION TAKEN BY APRIL 10 PLENARY TO FIX FURTHER  
PLENARY SESSIONS OR ORGANIZE ADDITIONAL SUBCOMMITTEES.  
KUBISCH

NOTE BY OC/T: SECTION 1 NOT YET RECEIVED.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NEGOTIATIONS, MILITARY BASES, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS, STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 09 APR 1975  
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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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